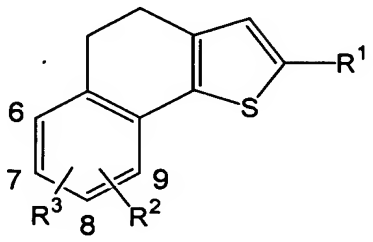
CLAIMS

1. A 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative expressed by the formula:



(wherein R^1 is a C_1 to C_{10} 1-hydroxyalkyl group or a C_1 to C_{10} acyl group, and R^2 and R^3 separately substitute in the 6-, 7-, 8-, or 9-positions, and are each independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group, a hydroxy group, a C_1 to C_{10} alkoxy group, a C_1 to C_5 alkenyloxy group, a C_1 to C_5 alkynyloxy group, a benzyloxy group, a nitro group, or a group expressed by the formula $-NR^4R^5$ (wherein R^4 and R^5 are each independently a hydrogen atom, an acetyl group, a trifluoroacetyl group, a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group, or a benzyl group), or R^2 and R^3 are bonded together to form an ethylenedioxy group, provided that when R^1 is an acyl group and R^2 is a hydrogen atom, then R^3 is neither a hydrogen atom nor an acetyl group), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 is a 1-hydroxyethyl group, and R^2 and R^3 are each independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group, a hydroxy group, a C_1 to C_{10} alkoxy group, a C_1 to C_5 alkenyloxy group, a C_1 to C_5 alkynyloxy group, a benzyloxy group, a nitro group, an acetyl group, or a group expressed by the formula $-NR^4R^5$ (wherein R^4 and R^5 are each independently a hydrogen atom, an acetyl group, a trifluoroacetyl group, a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group, or a benzyl group), or R^2 and R^3 are bonded together to form an ethylenedioxy group.

3. The 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 is an acetyl group, R^2 is a halogen atom, a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group, a hydroxy group, a C_1 to C_{10} alkoxy group, a C_1 to C_5 alkenyloxy group, a C_1 to C_5 alkynyloxy group, a benzyloxy group, a nitro group, or a group expressed by the formula $-NR^4R^5$ (wherein R^4 and R^5 are each independently a hydrogen atom, an acetyl group, a trifluoroacetyl group, a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group, or a benzyl group), and R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group, a C_1 to C_5 alkenyl group, a C_1 to C_5 alkynyl group, a hydroxy group, a C_1 to C_{10} alkoxy group, a benzyloxy group, a nitro group, or a group expressed by the formula $-NR^6R^7$ (wherein R^6 and R^7 are each independently a hydrogen atom, an acetyl group, a trifluoroacetyl group, a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group, or a benzyl group), or R^2 and R^3 are bonded together to form an ethylenedioxy group.

4. The 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 2, wherein R^1 is a 1-hydroxyethyl group and R^2 and R^3 are each independently a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group or a C_1 to C_{10} alkoxy group.

5. The 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 3, wherein R^1 is an acetyl group and R^2 and R^3 are each independently a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group or a C_1 to C_{10} alkoxy group.

6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of

Claims 1 to 5.

7. A hypotriglyceridemic agent whose active ingredient is the 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1 to 5.

8. A hypoglycemic agent whose active ingredient is the 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1 to 5.

9. An agent for preventing or treating diabetes, hyperlipidemia, fatty liver, obesity, impaired glucose tolerance, diabetes complications, metabolic syndrome, and syndrome X, whose active ingredient is the 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1 to 5.